

REMARKS

This is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/456,291, filed December 8, 1999, currently pending.

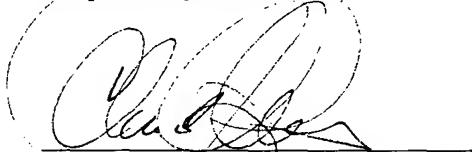
Claims 7 to 18 are presented for examination on the merits. Claims 7 and 8 are the independent claims. Claims 1 to 6 have been cancelled. Claims 7 to 16 have been amended. Claims 17 and 18 are newly presented.

In this regard, Claims 7 to 16 have been amended as previously set forth in the Amendment filed February 25, 2003, in parent Application No. 09/456,291; newly presented Claims 17 and 18 herein correspond to Claims 19 and 20 previously set forth in parent Application No. 09/456,291. No new matter has been added.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the above-identified application respectfully are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Christopher Philip Wrist
Registration No. 32,078

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CPW:eyw

DC_MAIN 141490v1